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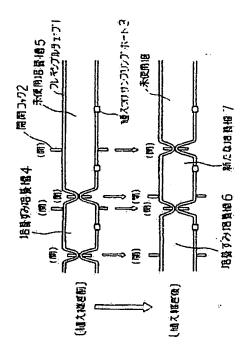
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TITLE

AUTOMATICALLY SUBCULTURING

DEVICE



PURPOSE: To readily and automatically carry out subculture of microorganism, cell, etc., by opening and closing a flexible tube containing a culture medium packed therein with a number of cooks in the longitudinal direction and blending a culture medium of a microorganism with the new culture medium.

CONSTITUTION: A culture medium is packed into the inside of a flexible tube 1 capable of sterilizing bacterium and made of flexible material having ${\rm O_2}$ and ${\rm CO_2}$ permeable properties and the tube is fastened at the prescribed positions with a number of and clothing cock 2 in longitudinal direction to prepare the culture tank. Then microorganism or cell is cultured in the culture tank and after definite time, culture medium is blended with new culture medium by moving a fastening position of cock in a state in which microorganism or cell is sufficiently proliferated. Thus, new culture tank is prepared to automatically carry out subculture of microorganism or cell, etc.

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① 特許出願公開

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審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 1 (全3頁)

劉発明の名称			自動植え継ぎ装置				
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1.発明の名称

自動植え継ぎ芸麗

2.特許請求の適田

培地を充領したフレキシブルチューブと、酸チューブを締めつけたり取めたりすることができる多数のコックを該チューブの長甲方向に適宜間隔をおいて多数設けてなることを特徴とする酸生物、細胞などの自動値を維ぎ装置。

5 発明の詳細な説明

〔 産業上の利用分野 〕

本希明はセルライン (cell-line) を破保するような子稲的な特徴操作を自動化した自動抵代培養技能に適用される微生物、細胞などの自動磁え継ぎ装置に関する。

〔従来の技術〕

従来、微生物、細胞などの個を継ぎは、アッスナック又はガラス製の培養容器(ピン、ファスコ、シャーン、ナユーブ等)とピペットを用いてすべて人手で行われている。 随え継ぎ級作

は無菌的に行う必要があるので、パイオクリーンペンチ内で行うのが普通である。

とれまでに、酸生物、和胞などの値を描きを 自動的に行うような技能は存在していない。

[発明が解決しようとする瞬回]

取生物や細胞を培養する場合、新しい環境に関うすために予備培養と超え継ぎを数のの場合を対してある。 又既結に弱い細胞の場合をなければならない。 さらに組織ををくり返さなければならない。 さらに組織をはまればならない。 さらには形定の時間なくされるなど、研究験では出動を余疑ない。 又宇宙における実験体の自動化の変である。

本発明は上記技術水平に盛み、微生物、細胞などを自動的に値え継ぎすることができる技能を提供しよりとするものである。

〔韓雄を解決するための手段〕

本発明は培地を充切したフレキシアルチュー

プと、数チューブを締めつけたり 観めたりする ことができる多数のコックを数チューブの 及手 方向に適宜間隔をおいて多数数けてなることを 特徴とする微生物、細胞などの自動磁え能ぎ装 殴である。

(作用)

フレギンアルな材質からなるチューブの内職に培地を満たし、チューブの所定の位置をつけてしたの所定の位置を作る。この他内では生物又は一種を増したらコッケのした。 地域の大力に対すると、新しい、一定時間はでは、の数作をくり返すことにより、一定時間はに自動的に個人継ぎを行う。

本語明度個はメカニズムが単純であるため自動化が容易である。 さらに とのよう を始作は無菌的に行う必要があるが、本語明接 個によれば 培養液が直接外気に接触しないため、汚染の危

個名籍を操作に関しては厳密を定置性は要求したいものと、ある程度の定量性は必要である。本発明整確の場合、例えば 1/100 に希釈しようとする時には、非常に扱いチューブを用いない限り無理がある。そこで1/10 希釈教作を連続的に2 回行りことによつて 1/100 の希釈が対応で

コックスの開閉機器は多数のコックを設置し 駆に開閉してゆく方法と、2個のコック2を1 険性が少ない。又地上のみならず無重力下でも 作動可能である。

(寒 施 例]

本発明接受の一央路例を第1図によって説明する。

組として4個のコプグでをもつてナユーブリヤコックでの位置をずらしたがら開閉してゆく方法等が考えられる。

又、付照性細胞を培養する場合には、培助に マイクロキャリア等の支持材を混せることで対 応する。

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[: 発明の効果]

本発明により、微生物、細胞などの耐え継ぎ の自動化を図ることが容易となる。

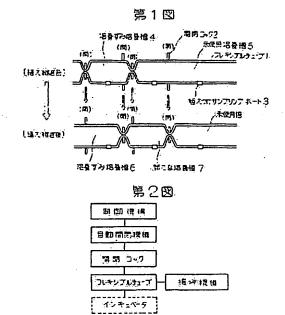
4 図面の電単な説明

第1回は本語明の実施例の説明図、第2図は本発明を適用した自動組代斯会技匠の機能プレック型である。

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(54) Title of the Invention:

AUTOMATIC SUBCULTURING DEVICE

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Specification

1. Title of the Invention

AUTOMATIC SUBCULTURING DEVICE

2. Scope of Claims

An automatic subculturing device for microscopic organisms or cells comprising a flexible tube where a culture medium is filled, and many clamp valves that can tighten or loosen said tube arranged in a longitudinal direction at approximate intervals.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention [Industrial Field]

The present invention relates to an automatic subculturing device for microscopic organisms or cells to be applied for an automatic successive subculturing device where a preliminary culturing operation is automated to secure a cell-line.

[Related Art]

Conventionally, microscopic organisms or cells manually cultured using a plastic or glass culturing container (such as pin, flask, Petri dish or tube) and a pipette. Since it is necessary to aseptically conduct the subculturing operation, it is normal for it to be conducted on a bio-clean bench.

Heretofore there has bee no device available to automatically subculture microscopic organisms or cells.

[Problem Overcome by the Invention]

In the case of culturing microscopic organisms or cells, it is normal to repeat preliminary culture and subculture several times in order for it to be climatized. Further, in the case of cells susceptible to freezing, culturing and subculturing have had to be repeated for the purpose of storing strains. Because the subculture operation has to be conducted at a predetermined time, the burden on a researcher is great, and he may have to work on a weekend. Further, in the experimental universe, since the working time is limited, automation of test operations is essential.

Taking technical standards into consideration, the objective of the present invention is to provide a device capable of automatically subculturing microscopic organisms or cells.

[Problem Resolution Means]

The present invention is an automatic subculturing device for microscopic organisms or cells characterized by comprising a flexible tube where a culture medium is filled, and many clamp valves that can tighten or loosen said tube are arranged in a longitudinal direction at appropriate intervals.

[Operation]

A tube made from a flexible material is filled with a culture medium, and fermenters with a constant volume by clamping the predetermined positions of the

tube with the clamp valves, and when the microscopic organisms or cells sufficiently grow after a certain time period, the cock tightening positions are shifted, so the culture containing the grown microscopic organisms or cells and a new culture medium can be mixed at a constant ratio, and then new fermenters are made.

Repeating this operation results in automatic subculturing in constant time periods.

Since the present invention device has a simple mechanism, automation is easy. In addition, it is necessary to aseptically conduct this operation. With the present invention device, the culture will never directly make contact with the outside air, so the risk of contamination is less. Further, it is also possible to operate the device not only above the ground but also under zero gravity.

[Embodiment]

An embodiment of the present invention device is described hereafter with reference to FIG. 1.

For a flexible tube 1, a tube made from a material that enables sterilization and has O₂ and CO₂ permeability is used. Further, since a needle needs to be stuck into the tube on the occasion of implantation or recovery of culture, it is preferable to establish an implanting/sampling port 3 where no liquid leaks even when the needle is stuck. Subculturing is conducted by mixing the culture and new culture medium due opening/closing of clamp valves 2 arranged at appropriate intervals. On this occasion, for a mixing ratio of the culture and a new culture medium, the ratio of 1:9 is limited, and when high diluting ratio is necessary, the same operation should successively be repeated. For example, 10 cc of culture is in the cultured fermenter 4 in FIG. 1.

Further, a new culture medium is contained within an unused fermenter 5. In the case of mixing 1 cc of cultured culture and 9 cc of new culture medium, first, the clamp valve 2 at the site to divide the cultured fermenter 4 at 9:1 and the clamp valve 2 at the site to batch off 9 cc of culture medium from the unused fermenter 5 are closed. Simultaneously, the clamp valves 2 at two sections forming the cultured fermenter 4 before subculturing are opened.

These series of operations results in mixing 1 cc of cultured culture 1 and 9cc of new culture medium in a new fermenter 7. An example of this is shown in the lower diagram of FIG. 1. The new fermenter 7 in the lower diagram is a fermenter containing 1 cc of cultured culture in the previous operation and the 9 cc in the unused fermenter 5.

Regarding the subculturing operation, even though a strict quantitativeness is not required, a certain level of quantitativeness is necessary. In the case of the present invention device, for example, when [the culture] is diluted to 1/100, it is reasonably impossible unless a very long tube is used. Then, successive diluting operation is conducted twice that realizes the dilution to 1/100.

For the opening/closing mechanism for the clamp valves 2, a method where many clamp valves are arranged and they are sequentially opened/closed, and another method where two clamp valves 2 are regarded as one pair and four clamp valves 2 are opened/closed by shifting the positions of the tube 1 and the clamp valves 2 can be considered.

Further, in the case of culturing adhesion cells, a supporting material, such as micro-carrier, may be mixed into the culture medium.

FIG. 2 shows a functional block diagram of automatic subculturing device where the present invention device is applied to a portion of opening/closing clamp valves 2 and the flexible tube 1 in FIG. 1. This device is composed of a flexible tube, opening/closing clamp valves, an automatic opening/closing mechanism, a control mechanism and a stirring mechanism. As a technique of stirring, a method where a magnet rotor is enclosed in the flexible tube and the rotor is rotated using a stirrer from the outside of the flexible tube, or a method to strike the flexible tube from the outside is applicable, enabling unification of the contents in the fermenter and appropriate subculture. Further, in order to control the circumstances (temperature, humidity, gas ingredient) at the time of culturing, the device is used within an incubator.

[Efficacy of the Invention]

The present invention enables easy automation of subculturing of microscopic organisms or cells.

4. Brief Description of Drawings

FIG. 1 is an explanatory diagram of an example, and FIG. 2 is a functional block diagram of automatic subculturing device where the present invention is applied.

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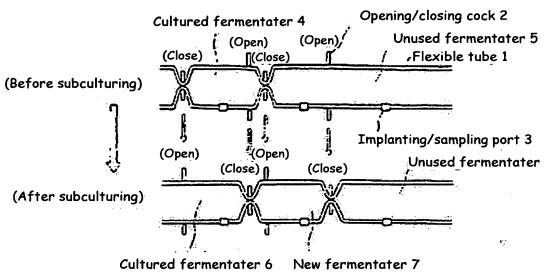
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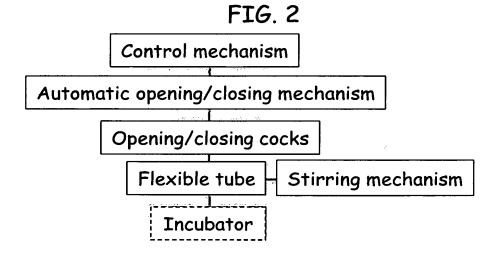
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FIG. 1





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